



[10746/11]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Hiroshi OGAWA et al.
Serial No. : 09/386,993
Filed : August 31, 1999
For : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
DIGITAL WATERMARKING

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Technology Center 2000

Examiner : Barry Choobin
Art Unit : 2621

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Date 11/8/2002 Atty's Reg. # 33,865

Atty's Signature AARON C. DEDITCH

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION/ELECTION REQUIREMENT

SIR:

In the Office Action mailed on September 10, 2002 (the one-month response date for which has been extended by one month from October 10, 2002 to November 11, 2002 (since November 10, 2002 is a Sunday) by the accompanying Transmittal And Petition To Extend), the Examiner required restriction/election as follow:

Restriction was required as between "Invention I" of claims 1 to 4, 7 to 10, 13 to 16 and 19 to 22, and "Invention II" of claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25 to 72. Additionally, it was provided that if "Invention I" was elected, there must be an election of Species 1 (the Figure 1 embodiment), Species 2 (the Figure 12 embodiment), Species 3 (the Figure 14 embodiment), or Species 4 (the Figure 24 embodiment), and that if "Invention II" was elected, there must be an election of Species 1 (the Figure 15 embodiment), Species 2 (the Figure 16 embodiment), Species 3 (the Figure 23 embodiment), Species 4 (the Figure 25 embodiment), Species 5 (the Figure 29 embodiment), Species 6 (the Figure 31 embodiment), or Species 7 (the Figure 32 embodiment). Examiner Barry Choobin also asserted that for both "Invention I" and "Invention II", there were no generic claims covering each of the Species,

The undersigned, Aaron C. Deditch, called Examiner Choobin on or about November 6, 2002 to discuss the Species classification of Invention II, and left a message. On or about November 6, 2002, Examiner Alan Rahimi (office mate of Examiner Choobin) returned the call, explained that Examiner Choobin was in the Hospital and was therefore unavailable, and suggested calling Supervisory examiner, Behavesh Mehta. On November 7, 2002, the